



FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

Hate to admit that I haven't been on the air very much lately, mainly due to computer issues. I didn't realize how much of a pain it is to transfer files from an old PC to a new one. I think I am just about there. Ham RadioDeluxe is up and running but getting the WSPR software and the K3 utility programs are still a work in progress.

My thanks again to all the officers for sticking around for another year. The success of this club certainly is due to your dedication.

Please be thinking about taking net control for a month this year, especially if you haven't done it before. Its not difficult and we would be happy to help you get through it.

Our wishes for a speedy recovery to Alan, K6KLL, after a fall and a stay at Sonoma Hospital.

Any members needing to upgrade, study up because the club is hosting a VE session on the 26th. Need help studying, call.

That's about it for now.

Hope to see you at the next meeting.

73, Jim, K6UUW

NEXT MEETING

Wed, January 16, 2019, 7:30pm
City of Sonoma Police Department

Topic: WSPR

(Weak Signal Propagation Repeater)

Presenter: Bon Robinett AI6VN

Christmas Cheer



Members enjoy food and good company at the 2018 VOMARC Christmas Party at Mary's Pizza Shack in Boyes Hot Springs.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Greetings OM/YL,

Robert (KA5WSS) here. As VP of the Valley of the Moon ARC I'm tasked with coming up with meeting topics throughout the year. There is a wide range of things I'm interested in, but this

may differ from what interests **you**. Can you take a few moments to answer or reply to the following questions/asks to help make club meetings more interesting in the future?

1. What topics either directly (DXing, emergency communications) or indirectly (radio astronomy, broadcast stations) related to Amateur Radio would you like to see highlighted in a future meeting? Please list more than one if you have a list.

2. Can you please send me one or more photos of the inside of your Ham shack for a future show and tell at a club meeting? No station is too modest, or too messy! Send a photo of your HT if that's your station. All photos are something we can talk about.

3. Can you please send me a scanned copy of your current and any previous QSL cards? If you don't have a scanner let me know and I can arrange to scan them for you. If we get enough examples we might turn this into a short topic at a future meeting as well.

Thanks for your assistance!

73, Robert KA5WSS

<http://www.hikingtrailhead.com/>

<http://www.texashiking.com/>

<http://www.austinexplorer.com/>

Logbook of The World Surpasses 1 Billion QSOs

The ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW) recently accepted its 1 billionth QSO. By the time of this newsletter the number will undoubtedly be higher. Of those one billion records, 187 million of them represent two way confirmations.

LoTW can be used to confirm Amateur Radio contacts without shipping QSL cards halfway around the world. In fact, I recently confirmed a QSO with a station in Guantanamo Bay less than

30 minutes after I worked him, truly express mail!

The system also allows for automatic application for several ARRL and CQ awards including DXCC, WAS, VUCC, WAZ and WPX. If all submissions are confirmed on LoTW then no cards need be sent in or checked by anyone.

<http://www.arrrl.org/news/arrrl-s-logbook-of-the-world-tops-1-billion-qso-records>

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Listen Listen Listen

Recently I saw a DX Cluster post for EX1XR (Kyrgyzstan). Needless to say, such a relatively rare country at a low point in the Solar cycle was bound to draw an enthusiastic crowd and he did. The pileup was fierce and his signal strength low, giving some credence to the post.

But something seemed off. When engaging one of the Remote Ham Radio rigs I noticed the signal strength seemed stronger pointing NW and he got quite weaker when pointing directly to EX-land. Long path? Not really, the strong and weak headings didn't really bear this out.

The mystery was eventually solved when the actual callsign, XE1XR (Mexico), was posted. Beaming NW was off the back of the beam. Not ideal, but easily copyable. Beaming towards EX-land means Mexico was off the side of the beam, its weakest point. It took a number a DX Cluster posts corrections to get things under control.

Swinging the beam around SW brought his signal in nicely. David in Mexico probably didn't know what had hit him!

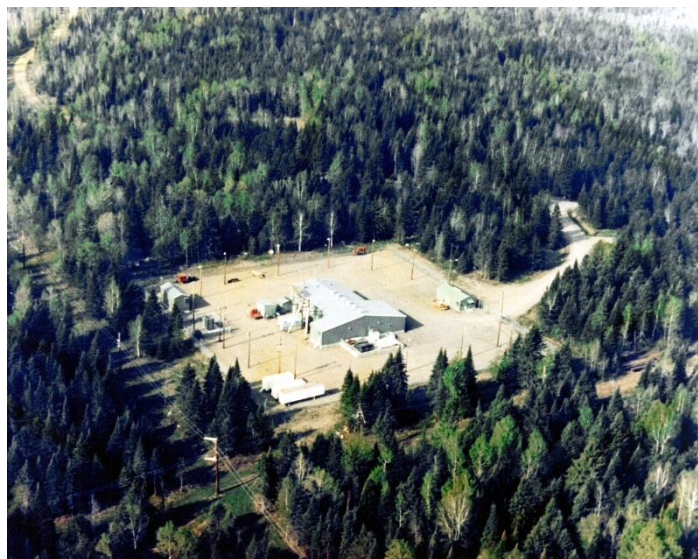
—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Now That's An Antenna Farm

China has reportedly built a radio antenna fix times the size of New York City. The antenna is

thought to be part of an ELF (Extremely Low Frequency) radio system used to communicate with submerged submarines. ELF frequencies are considered those between 3 and 30 Hz (yes, Hertz, not kiloHertz) and can penetrate seawater. The United States used to have its own ELF facility in Clam Lake, Wisconsin. It was decommissioned in 2004.

Too much to ask, I'm sure, but should the facility ever be opened to Amateur experimentation the facility would easily be the big gun on the Amateur 2200 Meter (135.7–137.8 kHz) and 630 Meter (472–479 kHz) bands.



<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/china-completes-antenna-five-times-size-of-new-york-city-health-concerns-elf-waves-report/>

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

<http://www.arrrl.org/news/wrtc-2022-organizing-committee-unveils-new-website-initial-qualification-rules>

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

WRTC 2022 Website Is Live

The World Radiosport Team Championship 2022's website is now live and more details emerge about its organization and qualification rules. That year's event will be held in Italy and

will host some of the top testers in the world to compete head-to-head in nearly identical radio stations during the 2022 IARU HF Championship.

<http://www.arrrl.org/news/wrtc-2022-organizing-committee-unveils-new-website-initial-qualification-rules>

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Amateur Radio Applications in Limbo as Partial Shutdown Continues

The FCC is not processing any Amateur Radio applications as the partial government shutdown approaches its fourth week. The FCC suspended "most operations" at mid-day on Thursday, January 3, although an appearance of activity continues. For radio amateurs, the shutdown means that, while the Universal Licensing System ([ULS](#)) continues to accept applications for all valid purposes, the FCC will not review or act upon them until the funding

stalemate is resolved. This includes Volunteer



ExaminerCoordinator test session batch files as well as modification, renewal, and vanity call sign applications filed by individual licensees. Amateur Radio newcomers who have passed the required examinations will have to wait until the shutdown concludes to receive a call sign and authorization to operate. License upgrades are also on hold.

(there is a lot more on the Jan. 10 ARRL newsletter)

—Submitted by Jim K6UUW

Aborted 3Y0Z Bouvet DXpedition Offers Donation Refund Options

Leaders of the [3Y0Z Bouvet Island](#) DXpedition, which was abruptly aborted in February 2018 before the team was able to land on the island, are offering several options for partial refunds to those who contributed to their venture. The turn of events was a huge disappointment for the DX community, as well as for the DXpedition team.



"Let me take this opportunity to thank you again for your financial support," DXpedition co-leader and Chief Financial Officer Bob

Allphin, K4UEE, said in a statement. "The DXpedition team members are all extremely disappointed that we were not able to complete our mission. We were offshore Bouvet for 3 days and encountered extreme weather conditions. While fighting hurricane-force winds, one of our vessel's engines was over-stressed and a critical coupling failed. The ship's captain had no choice but to abort the DXpedition for safety reasons. It was the correct decision, but a huge disappointment after almost 3 years of planning." Allphin said all DXpedition accounts have now been settled.

(from ARRL Jan. 10 Newsletter)

—Submitted by Jim K6UUW

TECHNICAL TOPICS AND INFORMATION

Jim, K9YC, has published "[A New Choke Cookbook for the 160-10M Bands](#)" on his website. Jim concentrates on two sizes of type-31 Fair-rite magnetic cores, covering theory and practice for controlling RF current on the outside of transmitter feed lines. (I little on the technical but loaded with good information. From Contest Newsletter for Jan 9, 2019)

—Submitted by Jim K6UUW

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 23 EDITION 1

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jim Hill K6UUW – President

Robert Barron KA5WSS – Vice President

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Treasurer

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Moe Llanes, KI6JNU – ACS Unit Leader

Sanford Smith, N7PIB – VE Liaison

Jim Hill K6UUW – Elmer Coordinator

Darrel Jones, WD6BOR – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Editor

Robert Barron, KA5WSS – Webmeister

"Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC."—S. Marler

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month at the City of Sonoma Police Department EOC 175 1st St West. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE: <http://www.vomarc.org/>

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is off the air until further notice.

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Black Bear Restaurant, 201 W Napa St, #34 (Marketplace Shopping Center), Sonoma. The fun starts at 08:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

—OR—

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

C/O Sonoma Police Department
175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476

**2019 ACS
Net Control Assignments**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
MARCH	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
APRIL	JIM	K6UUW
MAY	DICK	KF6FZM
JUNE	MOE	KI6JNU
JULY		
AUGUST	BILL	KJ6EIG
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	FK6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

**2019 VOMARC
Net Control Assignments**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	ED	W1EJ
JUNE	FRANK	KG6N
JULY	MOE	KI6JNU
AUGUST	CARL	N6TVN
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE THE JANUARY 16, 2019, 7:30PM

**AT THE CITY OF SONOMA EOC, CITY OF SONOMA POLICE DEPARTMENT, 175 FIRST ST W, SONOMA
SEE YOU THERE.**

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP 2019

Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC Membership: Complimentary with Class—Date: _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen:

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1st St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**.